

**All
quiet,
but not
for
long**

Some of the crowd at the Wycombe Wanderers v Reading Cup-tie. All peaceful here. But there was trouble before and after the game.



CUP CROWDS ON THE RAMPAGE

FIFTEEN PEOPLE were arrested as an outcome of scuffles before and after Wycombe Wanderers' F.A. Cup game against Reading at Loakes Park on Saturday — and police this week issued an appeal for witnesses of a traffic incident in which two policemen were injured immediately after the match.

Hundreds of supporters thronged Suffield Road and Queen Alexandra Road as the 8,000 crowd spilled out immediately after the game — and many of them scattered in confusion as a car with policemen hanging on the sides, drove towards the town centre.

Several pedestrians were said to have been slightly injured.

One High Wycombe policeman was taken to hospital for treatment to a foot. Another suffered injuries to the hand but did not require hospital treatment.

Later Wycombe police issued an appeal for any civilian witnesses of the incident to contact them at Wycombe police station.

Scuffles between groups of young rival supporters broke out about half-an-hour before the match started. Teenagers from Reading invaded about 100 Wycombe supporters on the terrace at the gasworks end of Loakes Park.

Later they were chased into the stand. When the teams came out about three minutes before the start of the match, Reading supporters jumped onto the pitch to escape a gang of Wycombe supporters.

Police officers broke up the fighting and several youths were manhandled out of the ground. One fought violently and escaped from a uniformed police officer who chased him through the stand. He was eventually caught and removed from the ground.

After the incident an elderly man was led away by St John Ambulance Brigade officers. Several small children were frightened and some parents lifted their children over the fence onto the pitch for safety.

Police officers dealt with several other scuffles during the game and youths were removed from the ground.

After the match, uniformed police officers patrolled the Octagon and bus station areas. About 30 youths wearing Wanderers scarves marched through the town chanting. They were followed into several stores by police.

"I have been going to Loakes Park since 1952 and those were the worst scenes I've ever seen at a Wanderers' match," said Mr Alan Hutchinson, who was giving a commentary for the Wycombe Hospital Radio.